them to take care of their food security, rural employment, rural development and poverty eradication concerns. However, no decision could be taken on these proposals as the Ministers of the member countries could not reach a consensus on a common declaration at Seattle. While the mandated negotiations in agriculture have now been formally launched in Geneva, no substantive decisions have yet been taken.

(b) and (c) Some of the developed countries could probably try to block import of food and food products from india by imposition of highly stringent sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) standards and other non-tariff barriers (NTBs).

Export of spices

1859. SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and value of spices exported from Meghalaya during the last three years;

(b) the foreign exchange earned therefrom; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to increase the export of spices?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Export data is not maintained on State wise basis.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Apart from the general trade policy reforms, some of the steps taken to enhance exports of spices include rationalisation of cess on export of spices @ 0.5% to make them price competitive in the overseas market, implementation of brand promotion schemes like Logo Promotion, grant of Spices House Certificate as a recognition of processor/exporter of quality products, setting up of laboratories for testing of products to ensure quality, technology transfer, process upgradation and product development.

Export from Meghalaya

1860. SHRI ONWARD L. NONGTDU: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and value of handloom handicrafts items, natural rubber, tea, leather exported form the Meghalaya during each of the last five year, and till date, country-wise;

(b) the quantity of these items proposed to be exported during the year 2000-2001; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government, in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (b) The Central Government maintains export data for the country as a whole.

(c) Central Government evolves plans and formulates its export policy to promote export of various items and products from all States/Union Territories of India including Meghalaya. One Export Promotion Industrial Park has been sanctioned at Byrnihat, Meghalaya. Under the Critical Infrastructure Balance Scheme, two projects namely development of road near Export Promotion Industrial park Byrnihat and installation of a sub-station at the Export Promotion Industrial Park, have been sanctioned.

Central Investment Subsidy in industries in H.P.

1861. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the category to which Central Investment Subsidy in industries has been given to Himachal Pradesh during the years 1995 to date;

(b) the rate of subsidy, alongwith the total amount of capital investment, given to the State, year-wise;

(c) whether Government are proposing to give more subsidy to the hilly, backward and far-flung areas in the State;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN) : (a) The Central Investment Subsidy Scheme introduced in 1971 with a view to promoting industrialisation in the selected districts backward areas of the country, ceased to exist on 30.9.1988. No Central Investment Subsidy Scheme applicable to the State of Himachal Pradesh, presently, is being operated by this Department in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.